U.S. Reaction on India's decision to send Indian troops in Iraq

2000. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reaction of the U.S. Government to the decision of the Indian Government not to send troops to Iraq without explicit sanction of the United Nations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to reduce India's dependence on the western world, particularly U.S.A. so that the country could adopt an independent view on all international issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) On 14 July, 2003, the U.S. State Department spokesman stated that, "it is a decision that each country needs to make on its own, depending on its interests and its concerns about the situation in Iraq". He added, "India remains an important strategic partner for the United States, and that the continuation of the transformation of Indo-U.S. relations is something that's important to us and that we expect to see."

(c) India always pursues an independent foreign policy.

Harassment of Indian workers in Gulf countries

2001. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the sponsors in the Gulf countries deny salary and other benefits due to the migrant Indian workers and that they are being harassed;

(b) whether Government propose to undertake and ensure the welfare and benefits of Indian workers and protect them from harassment;

(c) whether Government are aware that women being recruited as cooks and house-maids are tortured mentally and physically; and